Programmes for International Literacy Year, 1990

*20. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 883 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th March, 1990 and state what programmes are being planned by the Central Government and different State Governments in connection with celebration of 1990 as the International Literacy Year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA) : The activities relatng to International Literacy Year in the country were launched at a national function by the Prime Minister in New Delhi on 22nd January, 1990. Thereafter an appeal was made by the President to all citizens for taking part in the drive against literacy in the broadcast made on the eve of the Republic Day. This has been followed by a number of activities which have either already been organised or proposed to be organised both at the national and state levels.

National Level:

(i) International Task Force on Literacy (India Office) organised on 1-1-1990 at the India Gate, New Delhi a rally of learners and volunteers with a view to spreading the message of literacy and ILY.

(ii) A tableau on ILY was put up in the Republic Day Parade celebrations.

(iii) A special exhibition was mounted at the world book fair from 13—18th February, 1990.

(iv) National Poster Competition on ILY was organised, the results of which were declared in February, 1990.

(v) SAARC Conference to focus attention on literacy and continuing education was held in Delhi on 15—19 June, 1990.

(vi) Collector's conference for mobilisation, internalisation and active involvement of Collectors of selected districts was organised on 5-6 July, 1990.

(vii) The International Literacy Day is being celebrated on 8th September, 1990 which assumes added significance during this year.

(viii) The Planning Commission has requested all States to identify at least one district for complete eradication of illiteracy during 1990.

State Level:

(i) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has drawn up a detailed calendar programme for each week of the year, for each district separately, giving symbolic representation of various activities. Similarly, the Government of Bihar has issued detailed instructions to all the District Adult Education Officers and Project Officers for celebrating the year.

(ii) Mass compaigns for complete eradication of illiteracy within a prescribed time-frame has been launched in selected pockets. These are:—

—States of Kerala, Goa and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

—Bijapur and South Kannada Districts of Karnataka.

—Midnapur District of West Bengal.

(iii) Mass mobilisation and environment building for literacy through a nation-wide Bharat Gyan Vigyan Jatha is being taken up from 2.10.1990 to 14.11.1990 to

reach 60,000 centres all over the country.

(iv) Paidal Jathas covering 100—125 Districts covering 1000 Blocks is to be conducted during this year by the Banwasi Seva Ashram, Mirzapur.

(v) A Radio-based learning package to supplement, enrich and strengthen the print medium of instruction is being taken up in collaboration with AIR from October, 1990 to cover 4000 Adult Education Centres in eight States.

Funds for introducing vocational Education in Orissa

1. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government have urged for release of funds for introducing vocational education in 150 new schools, for promoting science education and for opening of new integrated schools; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Orissa Government has submitted a proposal for introducing vocational courses in 150 new schools during 1990-91. They have also submitted proposals under the Schemes of Improvement of Science Education in Schools and Integrated Education of Disabled Children for the year 1990-91. All these proposals need further clarifications and reformulation Accordingly the State Government of Orissa has been asked to do the needful and submit their revised proposals.

Flight testing of Anti Tank Missile-NAG

2. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Scientists have successfully carried out the ballistic flights of the country's first third generation anti-tank missile known as 'NAG';

(b) whether this weapon in the Indian Defence Forces is going to prove a deterrent to the missiles possessed by other countries: and

(c) whether it has the semblance of French acquired Milan Anti-Tank Missiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. NAG missile compares favourably with contemporary anti-tank missiles in service or in development elsewhere. It will also be able to defeat all the known tank armours.

(c) No, Sir. It has no semblance with Milan missile, of French origin, under licensed production in India. Milan is a wire guided 2nd generation Anti-tank Missile whereas NAG is a 3rd generation, top attack, missile.

New specie of horsesoe crab ditected by Scientists of Indian Institute of Oceanography

3. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of the National Institute of Oceanography have detected a new specie of horseshoe crab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote its growth?